



## INTIMATIONS

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authority on Water, reports as follows  
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us in our manufacture:

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degree of organic purity and is  
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A. S. WATSON & Co., LIMITED,  
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

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The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, August 22nd, 1890.

The Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce at its last monthly meeting passed a series of resolutions on the subject of cable rates, to the effect that the present rate of 4s. per word is excessive and admits of substantial reduction, that a reduction of the tariff would be followed by an increase in the traffic, if a Government guarantee might be given if there is any hesitation on this point, that the principle of cheap telegrams should follow the concession of a penny post, as it is certain to prove a powerful factor in promoting trade with the mother country, and that, so soon as the time seems ripe, all British line should be constructed between Great Britain and Japan, if not the actual letter, and we should think it will only be necessary to draw official attention to the subject in order to have the grievances removed. Representations have been addressed to Sir E. SATOW, H.B.M. Minister to Japan, by the Amoy and Hongkong Chambers of Commerce, and we look for an early indication that the objectionable duty has been abolished. The treaty provides for reciprocal freedom of commerce and navigation and that "the same export duties shall be paid and the same bounties and drawbacks allowed in the dominions and possessions of either of the high contracting parties on the exportation of any article which is or may be legally exported therefrom, whether such exportation shall take place in Japanese or in British vessels, and whatever be the place of destination, whether a port of either of the high contracting parties or of any third Power." Now the object of the new duty is to compel Formosa tea to be shipped via Japan instead of via Amoy, which has hitherto been the port of shipment for the Formosa tea trade, and the compulsory shipment of Formosa tea via Japan for Europe or the Atlantic ports of the United States would involve additional freight charges and to some extent divert the trade from the merchants and ships at present interested therein. If the Japanese Government should take refuge in the quibble that the new conditions are not discriminatory because they apply equally to Japanese and to Foreign ships and subjects it would be a serious blow to the belief at present entertained that Japan intends honestly and loyally to fulfil her treaty engagements in spirit as well as in letter.

The appeal which Mr. Ho Tung has published on behalf of the Tang Wa Hospital extension scheme merits a liberal response on the part of the public. Within the last few years a great improvement has been effected in the Tang Wa Hospital, and patients who so desire, can now obtain in that institution the benefits of Western medical science, while all alike, whether they elect to be treated by Native or Western methods, enjoy the benefits of improved sanitation and proper hospital arrangements. It is now proposed to erect a new building as an extension, in which a special ward is to be set apart for midwives, which, as Mr. Ho Tung says, "is urgently needed, considering the high mortality amongst infants and mothers." The amount of preventable suffering and the high mortality that exist in connection with childbirth amongst the Chinese are enormous, and any movement calculated to ameliorate the distressing state of affairs that at present exists cannot fail to appeal to the humane instincts of all who can be induced to give a thought to the subject. We take it for granted that in the proposed extension of the Tang Wa at the patients, without exception will have the benefit of scientific attention, for if native methods are to prevail, it would naturally make a material difference in the light in which the foreign and Chinese to the community would view the undertaking.

There is one passage in Lord TWEEDDALE's speech which will cause surprise to residents in the Far East who have followed the history of the telegraphic charges question. He said:—"They had been reproached with the great inequalities of tariffs. How were their tariffs fixed? Why did these inequalities exist? The answer was simple. It was because the telegraph tariffs to Egypt, India, and the Far East were practically controlled by the European Governments through whose lines Sir HENRIETTA HEATON suggested that competition should come. The rate to India was controlled by the tariffs of Germany, Russia, and Turkey; to China

"Egypt by Turkey. If any reduction was to be made in the present tariffs it was not the consent of the Cable Companies "that was in the first instance required, but "of the Governments mentioned." We do not know so much about the European Governments mentioned, but the question once suggests itself, who was it that induced the Chinese Government to enter into the agreement to keep up rates? Why, the Cable Companies themselves. For those Companies now to turn round and say they cannot reduce rates on account of the obstruction of the Chinese Government cannot be characterised as anything less than disingenuous. And it is impossible to avoid a suspicion that other Governments, like the Chinese Government, may have been influenced by the Cable Companies to keep up rates instead of being persuaded to lower them.

In connection with the influence of Foreign Governments there is another point to Lord TWEEDDALE's speech that we should like to have some further explanation upon. He tells us in one part of his speech that the greatest obstacle to a reduction of the present tariffs is the necessity for obtaining the consent of these Governments through the medium of whose lines Sir HENRIETTA HEATON proposes to reduce the Australian tariff to 1s. per word, and in another part, referring to the demand for an all-British cable, he says:—"As a matter of fact, the Eastern Company had cables from Great Britain to Gibraltar, Gibraltar to Malta, Malta to Egypt, and Egypt to Aden and Bombay, the whole of which landing points were either British territory or were under the control of the British Government. . . . Originally the policy of the Companies was on broad international lines, but during the past few years this policy had been somewhat modified to meet the demand for special cables for British traffic; and recently they had laid down new cables from England to Aden, touching only at Gibraltar and Malta, at a cost of £442,000, in order that no British traffic should transit foreign territory, leaving their cables from Malacca to Japan, and English stations having no direct connection with the French and other foreign traffic." From a political point of view this is highly satisfactory, as it gives through communication with India and the Far East by British lines touching only on British territory. But having these special cables for British traffic, and being thus in an independent position, how can the Companies claim that they are prevented from lowering their rates by Foreign Governments? There is the International Telegraph Convention, it is true, but if the Cable Companies were willing to accept lower rates the other signatories to the Convention would not be likely to raise any objection. Moreover, the Convention is subject to periodical revision.

The action of the Japanese Government in imposing a discriminating duty on Formosa tea of 1s. 16d. per picul if shipped direct to foreign countries whilst allowing the leaf to be shipped from Formosa to Japan free and thence exported abroad free of duty, is in direct conflict with the spirit of the treaty between Great Britain and Japan, if not the actual letter, and we should think it will only be necessary to draw official attention to the subject in order to have the grievances removed. Representations have been addressed to Sir E. SATOW, H.B.M. Minister to Japan, by the Amoy and Hongkong Chambers of Commerce, and we look for an early indication that the objectionable duty has been abolished. The treaty provides for reciprocal freedom of commerce and navigation and that "the same export duties shall be paid and the same bounties and drawbacks allowed in the dominions and possessions of either of the high contracting parties on the exportation of any article which is or may be legally exported therefrom, whether such exportation shall take place in Japanese or in British vessels, and whatever be the place of destination, whether a port of either of the high contracting parties or of any third Power." Now the object of the new duty is to compel Formosa tea to be shipped via Japan instead of via Amoy, which has hitherto been the port of shipment for the Formosa tea trade, and the compulsory shipment of Formosa tea via Japan for Europe or the Atlantic ports of the United States would involve additional freight charges and to some extent divert the trade from the merchants and ships at present interested therein. If the Japanese Government should take refuge in the quibble that the new conditions are not discriminatory because they apply equally to Japanese and to Foreign ships and subjects it would be a serious blow to the belief at present entertained that Japan intends honestly and loyally to fulfil her treaty engagements in spirit as well as in letter.

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The CHIEF JUDGE read the notice concerning the meeting.

The CHIEF JUDGE said—Gentlemen, as the report and documents have now been in your hands for some time I will not weary you, I consider them all very well. Since the last half-year's meeting of shareholders the capital has been increased by the sum of £56,050, and it now stands at the full amount authorised by the Articles of Association, viz., £60,000. Mortgaged debentures to the extent of £50,000 have been issued, of which the Company holds £32,000 worth. These two operations have enabled the Company to pay off the loan of £50,000 held by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, and the balance might have been called in at any short notice, perhaps at a time when it might not have been possible for the Hotel Company to borrow at 6 per cent. The asset of £27,000 represented by the 550 Hongkong Hotel Company's debentures held by the Company of a liquid nature, as the debentures could, without doubt, be easily sold at any time and one of the objects of the new capital is to provide for the defrayment of the interest on these debentures and holding more than half of the Company's tea in funds in readiness should it be considered advisable, later on, to build on the Company's portion of the Praya Reclamation. The first floor of the old building, which has hitherto been the port of shipment for the Formosa tea trade, and the compulsory shipment of Formosa tea via Japan for Europe or the Atlantic ports of the United States would involve additional freight charges and to some extent divert the trade from the merchants and ships at present interested therein. If the Japanese Government should take refuge in the quibble that the new conditions are not discriminatory because they apply equally to Japanese and to Foreign ships and subjects it would be a serious blow to the belief at present entertained that Japan intends honestly and loyally to fulfil her treaty engagements in spirit as well as in letter.

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In to-day's supplement will be found, "Our Paris Letter," "The Americans in the Philippines," and "Carton notes."

There were 1,904 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, 131 of whom were Europeans.

The Macao papers report the outbreak of another rebellion in Timor. Lieutenant Dutra was killed in an engagement with the rebels.

There were 2 cases of plague on Saturday and 2 deaths, and the same number, both of cases and deaths, yesterday.

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